

Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
 Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
 Men who possess opinions and a will;
 Men who have honor; men who will not lie.
 Men who can stand before a demagogue
 And brave his treacherous flatteries without
 winking.

Tall men, sun-crowned;
 Who live above the fog,
 In public duty and in private thinking.
 For while the rabble with its thumbworn
 creeds,

It's large professions and its little deeds,
 mingles in selfish strife,
 Lo! Freedom weeps!
 Wrong rules the land and waiting justice
 sleeps.

God give us men!

Men who serve not for selfish booty;
 But real men, courageous, who flinch not at
 duty.

Men of dependable character;
 Men of sterling worth;
 Then wrongs will be redressed, and right will
 rule the earth.

God Give us men!

WEAK-KNEED BUDGET TRICKS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, before we adjourn, the Congress will be asked to vote on an across-the-board cut for every agency and program in the Federal Government. The Congressional majorities have put this Nation on an irresponsible fiscal path, one that promises years of record-breaking red ink, inflationary pressures, and multiplying Federal debts. Instead of making tough choices on spending priorities, or perhaps limiting the massive tax breaks going to Nation's richest citizens, or finding ways to lessen the burden of the war in Iraq on the American citizens, the Republican Congressional leadership is expected to take the expedient route of an across-the-board funding cut.

This may not seem like a big deal. What's 1 or 2 percent? But to the families across this country, that 1 or 2 percent can mean a world of difference, especially when it is coupled with the freeze in services that has already been applied to Federal initiatives.

Take, for an example, community health centers which provide basic health care for some of our most isolated citizens. This arbitrary Republican plan would mean that 55 clinics would be shuttered, and 73,000 Americans would see their health care held hostage by budget games. A 2 percent cut in the Food and Drug Administration budget would force unacceptable delays in the amount of time that it takes to approve new lifesaving drug and medical devices.

At a time when the Congress is considering tax cuts for the wealthy, after a 2 percent cut, food packages for 65,922 elderly participants would vanish. A 2 percent cut in the WIC program would reduce the number of meals for 175,234 economically struggling women, infants, and children. More than 35,000 families would lose access to safe and affordable housing. Under this Congressional leadership, the rich get richer, while tens of thousands of poor and the

elderly have to struggle for food and shelter.

The House has passed four tax cut bills, totaling \$95 billion, and the Senate has passed tax cuts which add up to \$58 billion. The vast majority of these tax cuts are aimed at improving the economic portfolios of the wealthiest Americans at the expense of those Americans who are barely scraping by. At the same time that this Congress is pushing forward with unwise tax cuts, these across-the-board cuts would weaken further the Nation's crumbling infrastructure and rob the economy of new jobs. In fact, a \$720 million cut in highway construction, as put forward under the Republican blueprint, would slash more than 34,200 construction jobs from our economy. How many headlines about companies cutting payrolls by the tens of thousands will it take before this Congress stands up and puts the American people first? American families deserve to know that the safety net is not filled with holes. But instead of offering assurances, this Republican plan only serves to jeopardize the future of many Americans.

Children in school districts with a high median income would also suffer. These school districts, which receive title I funding, would have to scramble to fill a \$257 million reduction. That kind of cut would hamstring the education of more than 200,000 students around the country. At the same time, special education funding would drop by \$214 million, and the number of children in Head Start would be cut by 19,000. Cutting the funds for classroom education may achieve short-term fiscal goals for the Republican majority, but it creates long-term problems for the Nation's future.

Don't care about the classrooms? Think that school districts can absorb this cut with higher property taxes? Then what about our veterans? Each day, new veterans come home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. They join our proud men and women who have served in World War One and World War Two, in Korea, in Vietnam, in the first Gulf War, and in so many places around the world. These men and women have made us proud. Many of these 21st century veterans have specialized health care needs. The battlefields of today are inflicting wounds unlike those experienced by the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines of past wars. Veterans' health care is a responsibility that we must never shirk.

But what do these veterans get in return for their service? More budget cuts from this Congressional majority. The GOP plan means cuts in treatment for approximately 236,000 patients. It means that 1.4 million outpatient visits would disappear. Waiting lists would likely rise by about 176,000 veterans. In addition, the VA will not be able to expand specialty and mental health services at existing sites as planned.

But the short-sighted effects of this Republican cut to America's working families, classrooms, and veterans are only one aspect of backwards priorities of this Republican funding plan. Just this week, the President reiterated his effort to protect the American people from future terrorist attacks. But how much safer will the American people be if the Republican blueprint for budget cuts is signed into law? How much safer will the Nation be with 800 fewer FBI agents?

Similar cuts would face the Drug Enforcement Agency. Under this Republican scheme, the DEA would be forced to cut its planned force by 200 agents. The President and his team have stated that drug profits contribute to terrorism. Does anyone think that it is a good idea to cut more than 200 agents from the DEA?

Border Security would be cut by \$96.5 million. As a result, 200 of the promised new border agents would go unhired. Detention and removal efforts for illegal aliens would be sliced by \$20 million. All of us know that the U.S.-Mexico border already is terribly porous. But, instead of investing in new agents and tightening security on our borders, this Republican effort would undermine our effort to secure our borders.

What about our airport security? That is not immune from these Republican budget games. The Transportation Security Administration, which is responsible for the screening of passengers at our airports, would also be targeted for stiff reductions. As a result of this misguided GOP blueprint, more than 1,000 TSA screeners would lose their jobs. This is on top of the 2,000 person reduction in screeners already approved by this Congress. At the same time, funding for explosive detection equipment for baggage and passengers would be decreased by \$12 million. And safety in the skies would be placed at risk.

We all watched the Coast Guard perform marvelously after Hurricane Katrina devastated Mississippi and Louisiana. But rather than reinforcing the Coast Guard's ability in future disasters, the 2 percent rollback would reduce cutter patrol hours by at least 10,000 hours and aircraft hours by at least 2,000 hours. And military recruiting would be reduced by 60 percent—or 1,158 Coast Guard personnel.

I urge my colleagues to think again about this fiscal foolishness. Think about what it means for our children and for the safety of our families. Think about what it means for our veterans and for our security.

The American people elect Members of Congress to lead, to make tough choices, and to place the best interests of the Nation at the forefront of our work. This across-the-board cut is not leadership, and it is not in the best interests of the Nation.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small

Business and Entrepreneurship, I rise in support of amendment No. 2529 which was unanimously adopted into S. 1042, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2006. This amendment will restore much needed transparency in the small business contract goaling program administered by the Small Business Administration, promote international competitiveness of our Nation's small businesses, and ensure fair access of small businesses to Federal prime contracts and subcontracts for performance overseas.

Currently, many small contractors play a critical role in maintaining a strong domestic defense industrial base and supporting the Global War on Terror. Yet many of these small firms face serious obstacles obtaining prime contracts and subcontracts to perform internationally the work they are already performing so ably domestically. Simply put, this amendment would clarify that the Small Business Act applies to Federal overseas contracts.

In the 2001 report, "Small Business: More Transparency Needed in Prime Contract Goaling Program," the Government Accountability Office criticized the Small Business Administration, SBA, the Department of Defense, DOD, and other agencies for excluding contracts from the calculations of small business contracting achievements toward the statutory goals established in the Small Business Act based on tenuous rationales. On its face, the Small Business Act applies to all Federal procurements, including all overseas contracts. However, recently there has been some resistance to implementing the Small Business Act as written. Some agencies, like the Department of Defense, go as far as to exempt all overseas-related contracts from the act. Others, such as the Department of State, exempt contracts for performance abroad if they are also awarded abroad but not if they awarded domestically. As a result, prime contracting and subcontracting requirements of the Small Business Act are rendered unenforceable with regard to many military and reconstruction projects, and fair access for small businesses is seriously diminished.

Based on fiscal year 2000 dollars, the GAO found that approximately \$8.4 billion in overseas defense contracts were excluded from counting toward the Federal Government's small business performance. Under the Small Business Act, \$1.93 billion of these contracts should have been awarded to small businesses. The SBA's and the DOD's rationale for excluding overseas contracts was that small firms have little chance of competing for these contracts in the first place.

The excuse given by the SBA and other agencies to the GAO in 2001 did not hold then, and it surely does not hold now. With an expanded Federal presence in recent years, the dollar volume of overseas contracts has been steadily increasing, and small firms have been playing a substantial part in

supporting Federal operations abroad. Indeed, every major contract for the reconstruction for the reconstruction of Iraq funded by the \$18.4 billion in 2003 emergency supplemental appropriations has a minimum 10 percent requirement for small business subcontracting and a 23-percent subcontracting goal. Our experience with Iraq reconstruction proves that American small businesses are capable to perform overseas even in the most dire circumstances.

Congress clearly meant what it said in the Small Business Act that procurement goals must be calculated against "total purchases" of the Federal Government. My amendment reaffirms congressional policy that the Small Business Act applies to all contracts and subcontracts regardless of geographic place of award or performance. This amendment directs Federal agency heads with jurisdiction over acquisitions to ensure that all contracts and subcontracts, regardless of geography, are covered by the Small Business Act. Under my amendment, agencies will be able to give due note and recognition to the specific requirements and procedures of any other Federal statute or treaty, such as the provisions governing foreign military sales, which may exempt any Federal prime contract or subcontract from the application of the Small Business Act in whole or in part.

I urge my colleagues to help keep America's defense industrial base and America's global competitiveness strong by supporting fair access to prime contracts and subcontracts by our small businesses.

Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I rise today in support of my amendment No. 2530 to S. 1042, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2006, to promote fair access to multiple-award contracts. I am pleased that this amendment was adopted unanimously, and I urge my colleagues to support it in conference. Since the enactment of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act, FASA, in 1994, Federal agencies are increasingly relying on contracts and acquisition services offered by other agencies, specifically, the General Services Administration's Multiple Award Schedule/Federal Supply Schedule contracts, MAS/FSS, Government-wide acquisition contracts, GWACs, and multi-agency contracts, MACs, to purchase goods and services. These contracting mechanisms were authorized by Congress in the belief that they would encourage the Government to buy commercially available products and services and would open the Federal contracting market to businesses, especially small businesses, which have previously focused only on the private, commercial markets. Essentially, these indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity contracts are framework agreements on prices and other terms for any future sales to the Govern-

ment. In the procurement community, these contracts are popularly known as "hunting licenses" because they permit preapproved contract holders to secure Government work with very limited competition as a result of direct marketing to Federal agencies. Federal contracting officials can place task orders against these contracts with their preferred, preapproved vendors. This amendment is a modest response to numerous complaints from representatives of small businesses and small business trade associations that the actual process for receiving task orders under multiple award contracts, such as the Federal Supply Schedules and multiagency contracts, tends to be biased in favor of large businesses and experienced Government contractors.

Small business representatives testified before my committee that they invest time, effort, and resources to negotiate multiple award and multi-agency contracts with the GSA or with another executive agent managing a Government-wide acquisition contract or a multiagency contract. Consultants have been known to charge small firms as much as \$25,000 for guiding them through dense, time-consuming paperwork required to receive Government preapproval for one such contract. However, there are serious concerns that small firms do not reap commensurate benefits in the form of task orders. For instance, in recent proceedings before the White House Acquisition Advisory Panel, a representative of the General Services Administration, GSA, indicated that total Multiple Award Schedule/Federal Supply Schedule sales reached \$31.1 billion in fiscal year 2004. GSA further indicated that small businesses hold 79.6 percent of total MAS/FSS contracts, but account only for 37.1 percent of sales dollars. At first glance, this level of small business participation is commendable. It exceeds the statutory Government-wide goal of awarding 23 percent of Federal contract dollars to small businesses. However, the significant disparity between these numbers confirms the complaints of small businesses about the barriers they have been facing in Federal indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity contracts. I look forward to working with the GSA, the Small Business Administration, and other agencies towards a greater parity between small business participation in the Schedule program itself and their share of contract dollars awarded through this program.

In the acquisition world, there is a perception that contracting officers routinely persist in limiting upcoming task order opportunities to a maximum of three companies on any particular GSA Schedule instead of the three-company minimum as required by law. This situation is a recurring subject of bid protest decisions. In addition, many multiple-award contract holders do not receive a fair notice of upcoming task orders.

Earlier this year, an article in the *Veterans Business Journal* asked

"What Happened to Public Law 108-183?" This law, codified in the Small Business Act, created the contracting preference for small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. The article pointed out that many service-disabled veterans feel frustrated at the multiple-award contract regulations which undermine the weight of the congressionally established preference and preclude disabled veterans from obtaining set-aside multiple-award acquisitions.

The Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship has attempted to mitigate many of these problems. Back in 1994, the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act included a change to the Small Business Act that created an exclusive reservation for small businesses consisting of all contracts valued at more than \$2,500 but not more than \$100,000. Federal agencies attempted to exempt themselves from this provision by regulation. In response, I inserted corrective language in S. 1375, the 50th Anniversary Small Business Administration Reauthorization Act. This act, passed unanimously by the Senate during the 108th Congress, included a provision to ensure that task orders on multiple award schedules and multiagency contracts valued at more than \$2,500 but not more than \$100,000 are reserved for small businesses.

This amendment builds on my prior efforts by establishing a congressional policy that each agency's orders placed under multiple awards contracts must meet statutory small business goals. To facilitate this policy, the amendment authorizes Federal agencies using defense contracting authorities to conduct small business set-aside competitions in the context of multiple-award contracts. My amendment also directs the SBA administrator to provide to my committee a comprehensive report on participation of small businesses in multiple-award contracting.

The measures adopted by the Senate through this amendment are only some of many steps and initiatives which my committee has been pursuing to increase the access of multiple-award contracts to small businesses. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting these efforts.

Mr. President; as chair of Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I rise today to address a bipartisan amendment to S. 1042, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2006 from the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship concerning much needed improvements to the Small Business Innovation Research, SBIR, Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer, STTR, Program. Amendment No. 2531 is based on my original amendments S.A. 1536 and S.A. 1537 and builds on language reported by the Senate Armed Services Committee and on legislative initiatives proposed by the Small Business Committee's ranking member, Senator KERRY. I would like

to commend Senator KERRY, as well as Senators WARNER and LEVIN, the leaders of the Senate Armed Services Committee, for their bipartisan cooperation on the important subject of accelerating innovation and procurement of innovative technologies by the Federal Government. I also want to thank Dr. Charles Wessner and others at the National Academy of Sciences who have worked on a congressionally authorized study of the SBIR program, the Small Business Technology Council, the Association for Manufacturing Technology, and numerous representatives of Federal agencies, small businesses, and representatives of large prime contractors for the insights into the work of the SBIR and the STTR programs which they have provided to my committee over the years.

Today, the Federal Government spends approximately \$2.3 billion on phase I and phase II awards for the SBIR and the STTR programs, with \$2.2 billion spent through the SBIR awards to small businesses. The Department of Defense is the major participant in this program, accounting for approximately \$1.1 billion in SBIR spending and approximately \$50 million in STTR spending. These funds provide a substantial stimulus to the American innovation system, and it is the task of this Congress to ensure that these funds are wisely spent. A key part of this effort is strengthening the existing science and research requirements for the small business research and development programs. This amendment directs the Department of Defense to base its SBIR and STTR research and development priorities on the Department's most current Joint Warfighting Science and Technology Plan, the Defense Technology Area Plan and the Basic Research Plan and to solicit input from program management officials.

In addition to the phase I and phase II awards, the Department of Defense awarded over \$456 million in phase III contracts in fiscal year 2004. But the need for innovative technologies in our defense procurement is far greater. The SBIR and the STTR authorities enable contracting officers to quickly buy high-tech products and services for our warfighters. Unfortunately, the commercialization rate from research and development to product acquisition has been hampered by poor commercialization planning and increasing SBIR program administration costs. Since 1998, Congress and the Department of Defense have sought to increase commercialization but without much progress. To address this problem, my amendment authorizes a Commercialization Pilot Program at the Department of Defense and component military departments. Under this program, the Secretary of Defense and the military Secretaries would be required to identify SBIR programs with potential for accelerated transition into the acquisition process. The amendment authorizes the use of one percent of SBIR

phase I and phase II funds for administrative expenses of this pilot. Congress will be kept abreast of this pilot through detailed evaluative reports.

As cochair of the Senate Task Force on Manufacturing, I have been concerned about the deteriorating manufacturing base of our Nation and especially the impact of this trend on the defense industrial base. To stem this decline, President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13329, Encouraging Innovation in Manufacturing, in February 2004. This order directs Federal agencies which participate in the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program to give "high priority" to manufacturing-related research and development projects to the extent permitted by law. The amendment incorporates this Executive order into law and directs the Small Business Administration and all other relevant agencies to fully implement its tenets.

Finally, the amendment will expand the ability of Federal agencies and prime contractors to use phase II and phase III awards under SBIR and STTR for testing and evaluation of innovative technologies developed by small businesses for use in technical or weapons systems. Insertion of SBIR or STTR technologies into large, integrated systems is often not possible without significant testing efforts. By clarifying that either phase II or phase III may be used for these purposes, the amendment will provide additional incentives to agency program managers and to large systems integrators to commercialize the fruits of the SBIR and the STTR research.

Our Nation's small businesses are also our Nation's innovators. They secure approximately 13 times more patents than large businesses. I urge this Congress to support in conference my measure for keeping America secure in war and in competitive internationally.

ANTI-SEMITIC STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT OF IRAN

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to register my outrage against a series of vehemently anti-Semitic comments made by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. These remarks, all of them vile and baseless, should be condemned by the Senate. Let me describe some of these remarks for the RECORD.

At a conference in Tehran on October 26, President Ahmadinejad said, "Israel must be wiped off the map . . . The Islamic world will not let its historic enemy live in its heartland."

Then, on December 8, he continued his assault, saying "Some European countries insist on saying that Hitler killed millions of innocent Jews in furnaces . . . Although we don't accept this claim . . . If the Europeans are honest they should give some of their provinces in Europe—like in Germany,